

# Accreditation and Certification

An organisation becomes certified to one or more standard(s), such as the following management system standards, to enable the organisation to more effectively market its products and/or services.

ISO 9001:2015	Quality Management System (QMS)
ISO 14001:2015	Environmental Management System (EMS)
ISO 22301:2012	Business Continuity Management System (BCMS)
ISO/IEC 27001:2013	Information Security Management System (ISMS)
ISO 37001:2016	Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS)
ISO 45001:2018	Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS)

Virtually all tenders and framework agreements, and many organisations, particularly public sector, require or prefer suppliers to be certified to appropriate standards. If your organisation possesses, or intends to pursue, certification to a standard, you should be aware of the system of accreditation and certification, to ensure that you possess or achieve a valid, recognised certification.

## 1 International and National Standards

International standards are produced by international standards organisations, such as the following.

ISO (International Organization for Standardization) – [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)  
IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) – [www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)  
ITU (International Telecommunications Union) – [www.itu.int](http://www.itu.int)  
CEN (European Committee for Standardization) – [www.cen.eu](http://www.cen.eu)  
CENELEC (European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization) – [www.cenelec.eu](http://www.cenelec.eu)  
ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute) – [www.etsi.org](http://www.etsi.org)

The international standards organisations are membership organisations. Each member is a national standards organisation, such as the following.

BSI (British Standards Institute) – [www.bsigroup.com](http://www.bsigroup.com)  
ANSI (American National Standards Institute) – [www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)  
DIN (Deutsches Institut für Normung) – [www.din.de](http://www.din.de)

## 2 Certification

A Conformity and Assessment Body (CAB) assesses an organisation and **Certifies** that it conforms to a (management system) standard. The CAB awards a **Certificate** to the organisation stating that it is **Certified** to that standard. The CAB must maintain a Register of all the **Certifications** it awards to organisations.

NOTE	A CAB may also be referred to as a Certification Body (CB) or a Registrar.
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The CAB should be **Accredited** to certify to the standard.

## 3 Accreditation

The following international organisation complements the international standards organisations.

IAF (International Accreditation Forum) – [www.iaf.nu](http://www.iaf.nu)

It is also a membership organisation, each member of which is known as a (Conformity Assessment) Accreditation Body (AB). Most members participate in the IAF Multi-Lateral Recognition Agreement (MLA) whereby each recognises the equivalence of all other participants' accreditations to their own.

UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) [UK] – [www.ukas.com](http://www.ukas.com)  
ANAB (ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board) [USA] – [www.anab.org](http://www.anab.org)  
IAS (International Accreditation Service) [USA] – [www.iasonline.org](http://www.iasonline.org)  
DAkKS (Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle GmbH) [Germany] – [www.dakks.de](http://www.dakks.de)  
COFRAC (Comite Francais d'Accreditation) [France] – [www.cofrac.fr](http://www.cofrac.fr)  
ACCREDIA (Ente Italiano di Accreditamento) [Italy] – [www.accredia.it](http://www.accredia.it)  
E.SY.D. (Hellenic Accreditation System) [Greece] – [www.esyd.gr](http://www.esyd.gr)  
DAC (Dubai Accreditation Department) [United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.)] – [www.dac.dm.ae](http://www.dac.dm.ae)  
KAN (Komite Akreditasi Nasional) [Indonesia] – <http://kan.or.id>  
INMetro Accreditation [Brazil] – <http://inmetro.gov.br/credenciamento>

Some countries, such as the U.S.A and Japan, have more than one AB but most have only one. The national government of each member state of the European Economic Area (EEA) [European Union (EU) plus Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein] must designate one organisation as their national AB.

### 3.1 Role of an Accreditation Body

An AB assesses a CAB and **Accredits** it (to authorise it) to **Certify** to a specific standard. An AB must operate and perform **Accreditation** in accordance with the following standard.

ISO/IEC 17011:2017

Specifically, with respect to certification to management system standards, an AB must ensure that a CAB conforms to the following auditing standard when it performs a certification audit, to assess whether a management system conforms to one or more management system standards.

ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015

The AB must also ensure that the CAB conforms to applicable additional supplementary standards. The following stipulate required competences of auditors for specific types of management systems.

ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016 [Environmental Management System (EMS)]  
ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 [Quality Management System (QMS)]  
ISO/IEC TS 17021-6:2014 [Business Continuity Management System (BCMS)]  
ISO/IEC TS 17021-9:2016 [Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS)]  
ISO/IEC TS 17021-10:2018 [Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS)]

Additionally, the IAF specifies the duration of audits for certification of a QMS (to ISO 9001:2015) and an EMS (to ISO 14001:2015) in Mandatory Document MD5. The current issue is Issue 3 - 2015.

[http://www.iaf.nu/articles/Mandatory\\_Documents\\_/38](http://www.iaf.nu/articles/Mandatory_Documents_/38)

<http://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/IAFMD5QMSEMSAuditDurationIssue311062015.pdf>

For certification to ISO/IEC 27001:2013 the following standard stipulates audit requirements including required competences of auditors and durations of audits etc.

ISO/IEC 27006:2015 [Information Security Management System (ISMS)]

Refer to the following document for details of management system standards and their associated auditing requirements standards.

[http://www.parola.co.uk/MS/Management\\_System\\_and\\_Auditing\\_Standards.pdf](http://www.parola.co.uk/MS/Management_System_and_Auditing_Standards.pdf)

### 3.2 Regional Associations (of Accreditation Bodies)

ABs are also full or associate members of one or more of the following regional associations.

EA (European co-operation for Accreditation) – [www.european-accreditation.org](http://www.european-accreditation.org)

IAAC (Inter American Accreditation Cooperation) – [www.iaac.org.mx](http://www.iaac.org.mx)

PAC (Pacific Accreditation Cooperation) – [www.apec-pac.org](http://www.apec-pac.org)

SADCA (Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation) – [www.sadca.org](http://www.sadca.org)

AFRAC (African Accreditation Cooperation) – [www.intra-frac.com](http://www.intra-frac.com)

ARAC (Arab Accreditation Cooperation) – <http://arac-accreditation.org>

**NOTE** The members of the EA (European co-operation for Accreditation) include the designated ABs of the EEA (European Economic Area) and of other European and Non-European states in the region (such as Turkey).

The regional associations fulfil an important role. They manage the scope of accreditation of their members. Each regional association operates a peer review system whereby some members of the association assess another member to determine if the member has the ability and competence to perform accreditations, in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011:2017, to one or more accreditation standards, such as the following.

ISO/IEC 17024:2012

ISO/IEC 17025:2017

If a regional association determines that a member is competent to accredit to a specific standard, then all members of the regional association accept accreditations by that member to that standard.

The regional associations also decides whether a member may be a participant in the IAF MLA, so that a member's accreditation to a specific standard may be recognised worldwide as equivalent to an accreditation by any other AB to that standard.

*As an example of this, the USA has three ABs to provide accreditation to management system standards.*

ANAB [<http://www.anab.org>] is a member of the IAAC and participant in the IAF MLA.

IAS [<http://www.iasonline.org>] is a member of PAC and participant in the MLA.

UAF [<http://uafaccreditation.org>] is member of PAC but cannot yet participate in the MLA.

### 3.3 IAF Recognition of Signatory Status of Regional Associations

Last but not least in this international structure, the IAF awards a signatory status to each regional association, recognising its scope under the IAF MLA.

*For example, if the IAF recognises a regional association's accreditations to certification of business continuity management systems, then accredited certifications to ISO 22301, by CABs accredited by its members ABs, are recognised and valid worldwide.*

The following UKAS news item gives an example of an extension of scope of the EA to the IAF MLA.

<https://www.ukas.com/news/ukas-extends-iaf-signatory-status>

## 3.4 Accreditation Legislation

Accreditation may be subject to legislation.

### 3.4.1 EEA

The EU recognises accreditation as important to the operation of the single market. Consequently the following regulation applies in the EEA.

EU Regulation (EC) 765/2008

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:218:0030:0047:en:PDF>

Additionally, the EU has formally appointed the EA as the body responsible for the European accreditation infrastructure, in accordance with the above regulation.

### 3.4.2 UK

The following regulation governs accreditation in the UK.

2009 No 3155 - Market Standards - Accreditation of Services - The Accreditation Regulations 2009

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3155/pdfs/uksi\\_20093155\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3155/pdfs/uksi_20093155_en.pdf)

The role of accreditation in the UK is further reinforced by the following.

Memorandum of Understanding between the UK Government and UKAS

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/278807/bis-14-596-memorandum-of-understanding-bis-ukas.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/278807/bis-14-596-memorandum-of-understanding-bis-ukas.pdf)

UK Government Policy on Conformity Assessment and Accreditation

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/592063/conformity-assessment-accreditation-uk-policy.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/592063/conformity-assessment-accreditation-uk-policy.pdf)